Mixture of Naptha with Petrol

†1319. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
DR. PRABHA THAKUR:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Naptha is mixed with petrol;

(b) if so, the percentage of such mixing;

(c) whether it is also a fact that smoke emitted from Naptha mixed with petrol is harmful to environment and health; and

(d) if so, the details of bad effects that can be caused due to such smoke?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) It is possible that Naptha is mixed with petrol since it is one of the adulterants like kerosene. The percentage of Naptha mixed with petrol may range from 5% to 10%.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. It is a fact that the emissions from Petrol mixed with Naptha are harmful to environment and health like any other automobile emissions. If petrol is mixed with Naptha, it affects the Octane Number and thereby combustion, which will lead to increase in unburnt Hydrocarbon and Carbonmonoxide emissions. Increase in Carbonmonoxide emissions affects the Circulatory system as it replaces oxygen in the blood. Unburnt hydrocarbons in combination with oxides of Nitrogen present in the air can produce "Photochemical Smog".

Production of Crude Oil

†1320. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the plans proposed to increase the production of crude oil in the country; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the details of the percentage increase in the present production assessed after the implementation of these Plans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Several important steps have been taken to increase oil and gas production, which include the following:

(i) to improve the recovery factor from existing major fields by implementing Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) schemes; in particular Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has taken up 15 fields for this purpose at an estimated investment of Rs. 10,000 crore, which would also help in accelerating oil production from these fields.

(ii) to increase exploration efforts through the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP). Under the three rounds of NELP, Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) have been signed for 70 blocks.

(iii) to explore in new areas, especially in deep water and difficult frontier areas, as also explore in the deeper layers of the producing fields.

(iv) to develop faster the newly discovered fields and to step up the use of new technologies for seismic surveys, work over, stimulation operations, drilling of wells etc. in producing areas.

(b) As a result of measures taken, the crude oil production has shown an increase of about 3.3% during April-January 2003 over the corresponding period in 2001-02.

ONGC's projects in Syria

1321. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC has recently acquired oil stakes in Syria, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of investment made in that country and the benefits that have been and are being drawn from the ventures there and in what manner this has helped to conserve and preserve oil reserves?